

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

5/31/05

FINAL PASSAGE

SBs 252-54 (BASHAM)

<u>SB 252</u> would require that notice of a proposed (township) rezoning include a listing of all existing addresses within the property proposed for rezoning.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (5/25)
- SB 252 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 252 passed [RC 171: 36 yes, 0 no]. (5/31)

<u>SB 253</u> would require that notice of a county zoning commission's public hearing on a recommended zoning ordinance amendment be mailed to all owners of property within the affected area and that the notice include a listing of each street address within the affected area.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (5/25)
- SB 253 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 253 passed [RC 172: 36 yes, 0 no]. (5/31)

<u>SB 254</u> would provide that notice of a proposed (city and village) rezoning and hearing would have to include a list of all existing street addresses within the property proposed for rezoning.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (5/25)
- SB 254 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 254 passed [RC 173: 36 yes, 0 no]. (5/31)

SB 384 (SCOTT)

SB 384 would create a new act to declare that the third Saturday in June of each year be known as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" and that November 26 of each year be known as "Sojourner Truth Day".

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (5/25)
- SB 384 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 384 passed [RC 170: 36 yes, 0 no]. (5/31)

THIRD READING

SB 365 (Hardiman)

SB 365 would rename the State Treasury Building as the "Richard H. Austin Department of State Building".

• SB 365 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 462 (SWITALSKI)

SB 462 would change the deadline to file a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate from 4 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election to 4 p.m. on the Tuesday immediately before the election. The current Friday deadline occurs so close to the day of the election that some municipal clerks do not have sufficient time to train their election workers properly.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 462 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 512 (Hammerstrom)

SB 512 would allow a single municipality to establish a district library. The bill would also require that a proposal for a district-wide tax be certified for inclusion on the ballot at the next general election, the State primary immediately preceding the general election, or a special election held on an otherwise regularly scheduled election date.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 512 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 513 (Hammerstrom)

SB 513 would make technical changes to school election consolidation laws.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 513 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 514 (Cassis)

SB 514 would make technical changes to school election consolidation laws.

• SB 514 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 515 (Cassis)

SB 515 would delete provisions pertaining to regular community college elections and nominating petitions and filing deadlines for candidates for community college boards. The bill specifies that candidates for the office of member of a community college board would be nominated and elected as provided under the Michigan election law.

• SB 515 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 516-18 (Allen)

SBs 516-18 would allow villages and cities to provide for staggered terms for locally elected officials.

SB 516:

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 516 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 517:

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 517 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 518:

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 518 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 4356 (Rocca)

HB 4356 would expand current law that specifies triple damage liability for offenses related to embezzling, stealing, receiving, and concealing stolen property to also apply to the person who embezzled, stole, or converted the property. The bill would also include possessing and concealing among the list of conducts that gives rise to the action.

Recently, a victim of embezzlement tried to bring an action against the person who embezzled to recover damages, but the state appeals court held that the law as currently written only applies to the person receiving or buying the stolen property, and not to the person who actually took the property illegally. The bill would allow a victim to at least attempt to receive some monetary compensation for the damages that he or she suffered as a result of the crime. The bill would not interfere with any criminal charges or penalties that the perpetrator may face. In addition, the corresponding criminal statutes were amended in 1979 to include the acts of "possessing" and "concealing" in the list of conduct for which a criminal charge could be brought; the bill would therefore incorporate these acts in the statute pertaining to recovering treble damages.

• HB 4356 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4702 (Pavlov) HB 4703 (Pearce)

<u>HB 4702</u> would add video games to the obscenity laws. The bill addresses the problem of retailers selling or renting video games to minors that contain sexually explicit scenes. It does not address games considered to be violent. By specifically listing "video game" in the definition of sexually explicit performance and sexually explicit visual material, knowingly selling, renting, or lending a video game to a person 17 years of age or younger that contained images deemed as sexually explicit matter harmful to minors would subject a retailer (or anyone else) to the penalties outlined in the act – a felony punishable by up to two years imprisonment and/or a fine of not more than \$10,000.

- Committee 1 (1 amend) was adopted. Effective date of 12/1/05.
- HB 4702 was moved to 3rd Reading.

<u>HB 4703</u> would require information regarding a video game rating system to be posted where video games are sold or rented. The bill would require retailers who sell or rent video games to post a sign either with information about industry rating systems or that information on rating systems is available to customers upon

request. A similar measure was enacted in California last year. The rating systems reflect the content of the video games and therefore help a parent determine whether a particular game is appropriate for his or her child.

- Committee 1 (2 amends) was adopted. Effective date of 12/1/05.
 HB 4703 was moved to 3rd Reading.